



1. Who is the writer and/or speaker ?
2. When was it written and/or said ?
3. To whom was it written and/or spoken ?
4. What are the major natural divisions ?
5. What is the repeated key word ?
6. What simple sentence sums it all up ?
7. What is an application to my life today ?

## The Letter to the Colossians

1. **The writer** : The style and the content resemble Ephesians and in addition the text (1:1) confirms that the apostle Paul wrote this book. He had never been to Colossi (Col 1:4, 9 & 2:1-4).
2. **The date** : Paul was in prison (4:3) with Aristarchus (4:10). He had some friends with him (1:1, 4:10-12) which was not the case in his last imprisonment (2 Tim 4:6, 9-12 & 16). The reason for his imprisonment (Ac 22:21-22 & Col 4v3) was because he preached the mystery of the Messiah of Israel to other nations (1:27). This imprisonment was in the year 60-62 AD. At first he was all alone in prison, but near the end he obviously had believers with him. So this letter was written near the end, in the year 62 AD.
3. **The readers** : The letter was written to the assembly of believers in Colossi (1:2) but, was sent to be read to the assembly in Laodicea (4:16). Like the letter to the Ephesians also sent to the Laodiceans (4:16), this is a "circular" letter addressed to all of us.
4. **The natural divisions** : Two aspects to the mystery of "Christ in you".  
     The Revelation - Col 1:1-2:5 (doctrinal truths)  
     The Application - Col 2:6-4:18 (33 imperative verbs & 9 subjunctives)
5. **The key repeated words** : Christ (26x) & Him (20x)
6. **The message** : "Christ in you, the hope of glory" Colossians 1:27
7. **The application** : "You have been raised to life with Christ. Now set your heart on what is in heaven, where Christ rules at God's right side." Colossians 3:1 CEV

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**Personal Observations :**